

VENUES UPDATE

Head of Service:	Mark Shephard, Head of Property and Regeneration
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Community & Wellbeing Committee Report 16 Nov 2020

Summary

This report notifies Committee on the recent report taken to Community & Wellbeing Committee and the measures taken to safeguard Bourne Hall's key income streams during the current lockdown.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) **Note the contents of the report taken to Community & Wellbeing Committee at its meeting held on 16 November 2020;**
- (2) **Note the partial closure of Bourne Hall to the public for the duration of the current lockdown.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Since the first national lockdown in March, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a continuing impact on the Council's Venues, as Committee will note from the report taken to yesterday's Community & Wellbeing Committee.
- 1.2 The current lockdown partially affects Bourne Hall and this report outlines the measures taken to safeguard its key income streams.

2 Background

- 2.1 Following Government guidance, the Council's Venues temporarily closed to the public just prior to the UK entering lockdown on 23 March 2020.

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- 2.2 The Epsom Playhouse and Ewell Court House have remained closed due to operational difficulties imposed by meeting social distancing requirements.
- 2.3 Bourne Hall has remained operational; initially to support the Council's Meals at Home service and more recently, to support Ewell Library and local hirers.

3 Second National Lockdown

- 3.1 The effect of the current lockdown is to require all non-essential activities to cease for 28 days with effect from 5 November 2020. The Council has no influence over this and these activities must stop.
- 3.2 The Epsom Playhouse and Ewell Court House are unaffected by the lockdown as services are currently suspended at these venues.
- 3.3 Bourne Hall is partially affected by the current lockdown. The monthly lost hire income from currently prohibited hire activities totals £4,345.85.
- 3.4 The Regulations allow specific "exempt activities" to remain open and these include activities of a medical nature. Exempt activities at Bourne Hall include Ewell Library (albeit in a limited capacity), the National Blood Service and physiotherapist services.
- 3.5 The exempt activities contribute just over £100k per annum and to safeguard this key income, it is imperative the Council continues to maintain a Covid-19 secure environment for their operation.
- 3.6 The partial closure of Bourne Hall to the public complies with the No 4 Regulations and safeguards Bourne Hall's key income streams.

4 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

4.1 Impact Assessment

- 4.1.1 The hospitality sector has been impacted disproportionately by the pandemic and supporting the sector is vital for local jobs and household income.

4.2 Crime & Disorder

- 4.2.1 None arising from this report.

4.3 Safeguarding

- 4.3.1 None arising from this report.

4.4 Dependencies

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4.4.1 The hospitality sector is dependent on the course of the pandemic and continuing social distancing requirements.

4.5 Other

4.5.1 None

5 Financial Implications

5.1 The actions proposed in this paper will assist the Council respond to the financial challenges of the ongoing pandemic.

5.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** *In the current environment, the Council's venues are unable to operate in a way that would generate sufficient income to meet their budgeted income targets and cover operational costs. As such, the venues must remain partially or temporarily closed, as detailed in the report.*

6 Legal Implications

6.1 The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions (England) No4) Regulations 2020, introduced measures in relation to the national lockdown that commenced on 5 November 2020. Unless extended, the Regulations expire at the end of a period of 28 days from the day they came into force (the period of the current lockdown).

6.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** *None arising from the contents of this report.*

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: Opportunity and Prosperity, Effective Council.

7.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None

7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None

7.5 **Partnerships:** None

8 Background papers

8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- None

Other papers:

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- Community & Wellbeing Committee Report 16 Nov 2020
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No4) Regulations 2020